

Meeting Summary
RI Economic Monitoring Collaborative
October 10, 2006
3-5pm
RI Economic Policy Council

Attendees: Kip Bergstrom, Geoff Grout, Richard Nadolink, Mike Doherty, Austin Becker, Elizabeth Kordowski, Marisa Paul, Ames Colt, Chip Young, Kevin Hively and Ariana McBride.

1. Economic Monitoring Plan Discussion

Kevin Hively walked through his proposal for the baseline industry and resource use assessments. He noted his concern with the models used for estimating the indirect effects of industries, highlighting how they can overestimate local spending. Mr. Hively also discussed his plan for developing the complementary indicators (to wages and employment); he will initially collect information on potential indicators and will present it to the Collaborative for a discussion on which measures will be most appropriate given the aim of the Collaborative and the Coordination Team. He will use the output from that discussion to continue to develop the indicators. Mr. Hively discussed the challenges with developing the resource use assessment as very little work has been done in this area.

Collaborative members discussed potential measures and questioned Mr. Hively on his thoughts on them. Dr. Nadolink asked specifically about how to incorporate information on NUWC and related entities and discussed that although many of these activities are no longer water dependent, they are important in ensuring a continued Navy presence in the state.

Mr. Bergstrom discussed how we will over time want to look at the value chain of some of the industries vs. using input-output models. Mr. Hively noted that for the first round of monitoring, he could show graphically how these industries relate.

Mr. Hively questioned the Collaborative members on how expansive they want to be in the definition of the water cluster; whether this definition includes all major water users or just those who are dependent for water in their business processes (e.g. Brown as a major water user vs. Amgen as a major user that is dependent on water for manufacturing). Members noted that the definition is more aimed at the latter category for now.

Mr. Hively also discussed the possibility to use industry-specific surveys to complement other collected data. These surveys could be used to get a sense for the perceptions/issues of the targeted industries. He noted the potential to work off a model like the SCORP survey.

Members also questioned Mr. Hively about the composition of the data he plans to collect; some of the data will be in the public domain, some will be collected specifically

for this project; and some will be based on his previous research for other clients (subject to their permission). Mr. Hively has agreed to provide the Collaborative with a clear methodology so that the membership could test the data if it so chose to do. Mr. Becker requested that the data be broken down on a regional basis as much as is possible. Mr. Bergstrom noted the possibility that it may cost the Collaborative more in the second year of monitoring as this first year will have the benefit of relying on these other studies that may not be updated. Mr. Colt recommended that the Collaborative put together a budget request for FY08 as soon as possible (by early November at the latest). Mr. Hively suggested that other industries groups may be interested on co-funding certain studies, which could be used to supplement an FY08 request.

Mr. Hively will begin the monitoring work once he has received first payment. The request for the funds transfer has been submitted to RI DEM.

2. Other Business

No other business.